

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 35 and 38 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/35)

7 Sec. 35. Monetary award program.

8 (a) The Commission shall, each year, receive and consider  
9 applications for grant assistance under this Section. Subject  
10 to a separate appropriation for such purposes, an applicant is  
11 eligible for a grant under this Section when the Commission  
12 finds that the applicant:

13 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or  
14 permanent resident of the United States; and

15 (2) in the absence of grant assistance, will be  
16 deterred by financial considerations from completing an  
17 educational program at the qualified institution of his or  
18 her choice.

19 (b) The Commission shall award renewals only upon the  
20 student's application and upon the Commission's finding that  
21 the applicant:

22 (1) has remained a student in good standing;

23 (2) remains a resident of this State; and

1           (3) is in a financial situation that continues to  
2           warrant assistance.

3           However, if a recipient of a grant under this Section is not  
4           permitted to continue attending an institution because he or  
5           she is not earning the minimum grades needed to continue to  
6           attend the institution, then that person may not receive a  
7           grant under this Section during the following academic year.  
8           The Commission may adopt any rules necessary for the  
9           enforcement of this prohibition.

10           (c) All grants shall be applicable only to tuition and  
11           necessary fee costs. The Commission shall determine the grant  
12           amount for each student, which shall not exceed the smallest of  
13           the following amounts:

14                   (1) subject to appropriation, \$5,468 for fiscal year  
15                   2009, \$5,968 for fiscal year 2010, and \$6,468 for fiscal  
16                   year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, or such lesser  
17                   amount as the Commission finds to be available, during an  
18                   academic year;

19                   (2) the amount which equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters  
20                   tuition and other necessary fees required generally by the  
21                   institution of all full-time undergraduate students; or

22                   (3) such amount as the Commission finds to be  
23                   appropriate in view of the applicant's financial  
24                   resources.

25           Subject to appropriation, the maximum grant amount for  
26           students not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection (c)

1 must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made  
2 by law to the maximum grant amount under subdivision (1) of  
3 this subsection (c).

4 "Tuition and other necessary fees" as used in this Section  
5 include the customary charge for instruction and use of  
6 facilities in general, and the additional fixed fees charged  
7 for specified purposes, which are required generally of  
8 nongrant recipients for each academic period for which the  
9 grant applicant actually enrolls, but do not include fees  
10 payable only once or breakage fees and other contingent  
11 deposits which are refundable in whole or in part. The  
12 Commission may prescribe, by rule not inconsistent with this  
13 Section, detailed provisions concerning the computation of  
14 tuition and other necessary fees.

15 (d) No applicant, including those presently receiving  
16 scholarship assistance under this Act, is eligible for monetary  
17 award program consideration under this Act after receiving a  
18 baccalaureate degree or the equivalent of 135 semester credit  
19 hours of award payments.

20 (e) The Commission, in determining the number of grants to  
21 be offered, shall take into consideration past experience with  
22 the rate of grant funds unclaimed by recipients. The Commission  
23 shall notify applicants that grant assistance is contingent  
24 upon the availability of appropriated funds.

25 The Commission shall request that the Illinois Association  
26 of Student Financial Aid Administrators, or a committee

1 designated by this association from among its membership, make  
2 recommendations on possible changes to how the Commission  
3 determines the number of grants to be offered and to whom they  
4 are offered.

5 (f) The Commission may request appropriations for deposit  
6 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Monies deposited  
7 into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund may be expended  
8 exclusively for one purpose: to make Monetary Award Program  
9 grants to eligible students. Amounts on deposit in the Monetary  
10 Award Program Reserve Fund may not exceed 2% of the current  
11 annual State appropriation for the Monetary Award Program.

12 The purpose of the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund is  
13 to enable the Commission each year to assure as many students  
14 as possible of their eligibility for a Monetary Award Program  
15 grant and to do so before commencement of the academic year.  
16 Moneys deposited in this Reserve Fund are intended to enhance  
17 the Commission's management of the Monetary Award Program,  
18 minimizing the necessity, magnitude, and frequency of  
19 adjusting award amounts and ensuring that the annual Monetary  
20 Award Program appropriation can be fully utilized.

21 (g) The Commission shall determine the eligibility of and  
22 make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit  
23 institutions in accordance with the criteria set forth in this  
24 Section. The eligibility of applicants enrolled at such  
25 for-profit institutions shall be limited as follows:

26 (1) Beginning with the academic year 1997, only to

1 eligible first-time freshmen and first-time transfer  
2 students who have attained an associate degree.

3 (2) Beginning with the academic year 1998, only to  
4 eligible freshmen students, transfer students who have  
5 attained an associate degree, and students who receive a  
6 grant under paragraph (1) for the academic year 1997 and  
7 whose grants are being renewed for the academic year 1998.

8 (3) Beginning with the academic year 1999, to all  
9 eligible students.

10 (Source: P.A. 95-917, eff. 8-26-08.)

11 (110 ILCS 947/38)

12 Sec. 38. Monetary award program accountability.

13 (a) The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is directed  
14 to assess the educational persistence of monetary award program  
15 recipients. An assessment under this Section shall include an  
16 analysis of such factors as undergraduate educational goals,  
17 chosen field of study, retention rates, and expected time to  
18 complete a degree. The assessment also shall include an  
19 analysis of the academic success of monetary award program  
20 recipients through a review of measures that are typically  
21 associated with academic success, such as grade point average,  
22 satisfactory academic progress, and credit hours earned. Each  
23 analysis should take into consideration student class level,  
24 dependency types, and the type of higher education institution  
25 at which each monetary award program recipient is enrolled. The

1 Commission shall report its findings to the General Assembly  
2 and the Board of Higher Education by February 1, 1999 and at  
3 least every 2 years thereafter.

4 (b) To demonstrate the value of the monetary award program  
5 and determine where improvements could be made, institutions  
6 shall provide information concerning grant recipients to the  
7 Commission if requested, including without limitation the  
8 following:

9 (1) Completion and graduation rates.

10 (2) Courses attempted versus courses completed.

11 (3) The number of remedial courses undertaken, the  
12 names of these courses, and the success rate of these  
13 courses.

14 (4) Chosen fields of study.

15 (5) The receipt of institutional financial aid, how  
16 much of that aid is merit-only aid, how much is need-based  
17 aid, and how this aid dovetails with State and federal  
18 financial aid.

19 The Commission may consult with the Illinois Association of  
20 Student Financial Aid Administrators to develop guidelines for  
21 the information to be provided under this subsection (b).

22 Each year, the Commission shall compile the information  
23 provided under this subsection (b) in a report to be submitted  
24 to the General Assembly and the Governor.

25 (Source: P.A. 90-486, eff. 8-17-97; 90-488, eff. 8-17-97.)